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Helms Briefs Senate Panel Of Watchdogs

Richard Helms, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, met yesterday with a Senate watchdog subcommittee where membership has been broadened to include foreign policy experts.

The expanded membership was expected to silence many of the complaints about Senate supervision of the big spy agency.

Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy (D-Minn.), said inclusion of members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee provides "the substance of what we are asking for." However, he said there remained the question of whether "this can be given and taken away."

Chairman J. William Fulbright (D-Ark.), and Sen. Bourke B. Hickenlooper of Iowa, the ranking Republican, were invited to represent the Foreign Relations Committee by Sen. Richard B. Russell (D-Ga.), who heads the watchdog subcommittee.

Fulbright and other Foreign Relations Committee members have contended that the committee should have a role in supervising CIA because its operations affect foreign policy. Russell said last year the proposed expansion was an attempt to "muscle in" on jurisdiction of the Armed Services Committee and the Appropriations Committee.

Of the Helms briefing, Russell said only that it "covered the waterfront including such matters as the Vietnam war and the turmoil in Red China."